

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 27, 2006. Claims 15, 16, 37, 38, 47, 50 to 53 and 57 to 64 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 14, 17 to 36, 39 to 46, 48, 49 and 54 to 56 having been cancelled. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 49 was objected to for an alleged typographical error in the dependency. The objection is traversed since Claim 49 is directed to a user browser that interacts with the server of Claim 50. Nonetheless, merely to make the forgoing even clearer, Claim 49 has been rewritten into independent form as newly-added Claim 64. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 57, 58, 60 and 62 would be allowable if they are rewritten into independent form. While Applicant greatly appreciates the indicated allowability, Applicant nonetheless firmly believes that the independent claims on which each of the foregoing allowable claims are based are also allowable and not anticipated by the cited art.

In this regard, Claims 15, 16, 37, 38, 47, 49 to 53, 59, 61 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,321,228 (Crandall). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

As previously discussed in Applicant's prior responses, the invention concerns the formation of a searchable list of computer network locations, such as a list of locations that have been bookmarked by subscribers. According to the claims, a server

monitors bookmarking activities of a plurality of subscribers and forms a list of network identifiers (or locations) bookmarked by individual ones of the subscribers. The network identifiers in the list are ordered according to a frequency of bookmarking by the subscribers. From the formed/ordered list, the server identifies a first predetermined number of highest ordered network identifiers (or locations), as well as a second predetermined number of lower ordered network identifiers (or locations), and inserts the lower ordered identifiers amongst the highest ordered identifiers to form the searchable list.

By virtue of the foregoing arrangement, the prominence of lower ordered items within the search results is improved, thereby allowing the searchable list to feature items that are both popular and recent.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 47 is directed to a server computer for forming a searchable list of network locations within a computer network incorporating the server computer, the server computer comprising means for monitoring bookmarking activities of a plurality of subscribers to the server computer, wherein the bookmarking activities record network identifiers corresponding to certain ones of the network locations, means for forming a list of the network identifiers bookmarked by individual ones of the subscribers, means for ordering the network identifiers in the list according to a frequency of bookmarking by the subscribers, means for identifying from the list a first predetermined number of highest ordered identifiers, means for identifying from the list a second predetermined number of lower ordered identifiers, and means for inserting the identified lower ordered identifiers amongst the highest ordered identifiers to thereby form the searchable list.

Claims 15 and 37 are directed to a method, a computer readable medium that substantially correspond to Claim 47.

Claim 50 is directed to a server operating within a computer network, the server executing an application and interacting with at least one user browser application, wherein the user browser application is constructed to access network locations within the network, the server application comprising, means for receiving, from the user browser application, bookmark information relating to at least one of the network locations recorded for subsequent access by the user browser application, means for integrating the bookmark information received from plural ones of the user browser application to form a database of the bookmark information, means for forming a list of selected network locations from the database, means for ordering the selected network locations in the list according to a frequency of bookmarking by the plural ones of the user browser application, means for identifying from the list a first predetermined number of highest ordered network locations, means for identifying from the list a second predetermined number of lower ordered network locations, and means for inserting the identified lower ordered network locations amongst the highest ordered network locations to thereby form a searchable list of select network locations derived from the database.

Claim 64 is directed to a user browser application which interacts with a server operating within a computer network, the sever executing a server application and interacting with at least the user browser application, the server application comprising, means for receiving, from the user browser application, bookmark information relating to a t least one of the network locations recorded for subsequent access by the user browser

application, means for integrating the bookmark information received from plural ones of the user browser application to form a database of the bookmark information, means for forming a list of selected network locations from the database, means for ordering the selected network locations in the list according to a frequency of bookmarking by the plural ones of the user browser application, means for identifying from the list a first predetermined number of highest ordered network locations, means for identifying from the list a second predetermined number of lower ordered network locations, means for inserting the identified lower ordered network locations amongst the highest ordered network locations to thereby form a searchable list of select network locations derived from the database, and wherein the user browser application is configured to access network locations within the network and the user browser application comprises means for sending to the server a bookmarking of a network location accessed by the user browser application, the network location being within the computer network incorporating the server.

Crandall is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 15, 27, 47, 50 and 64, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a server identifying from a list of network identifiers, formed by monitoring a plurality of subscribers' bookmarking of the identifiers, a first predetermined number of highest ordered identifiers and a second predetermined number of lower ordered identifiers, and inserting the identified lower ordered identifiers amongst the highest ordered identifiers to thereby form a searchable list.

Crandall, as described at columns 5 and 6, takes a search query and divides that into three separate queries which are applied to one or more databases. Each of the separate queries produces in a corresponding set of results. Those sets of results are then combined by Crandall to provide a single list of results. According to Crandall, at column 6 lines 20 and 21, “the entire results set is sorted according to the user’s sorting choice”. Crandall describes various sorting choices, one of which is the bookmark frequency being associated with each search result.

In contrast, the present invention as defined in Claim 15, for example, relates to a method of forming searchable list in which the first three steps are: the first step involves monitoring bookmarking activities, the second step involves forming a list of network identifiers, and the third step involves ordering the network identifiers according to bookmark frequency. As a consequence, the end result of Crandall as applicable to the present application, can be seen to correspond to only the first three steps of Claim 15. Claim 15 of the present invention, however, includes three further steps that are neither disclosed nor suggested in Crandall. Those steps clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art. Further, while Crandall may state that the result is sorted according to the user choice, there is nothing in the various choices mentioned by Crandall, either individually or in any reasonable combination (if any such combination can be read from column 6 lines 21 to 29), that suggest the final three steps of Claim 15. A further distinction between Crandall and the present invention is that each have a clearly different motivation. Crandall’s motivation is to expand the search and then to put the results of the expanded search into an ordered fashion according to bookmark frequency or other sorting

criteria. Crandall therefore is trying to obtain an ordered list. In contrast, the motivation of the present invention is to avoid the strict ordering process of Crandall by having the final three steps of Claim 15 actively disrupt the strict ordering that is recited earlier in Claim 15. Accordingly, is not seen how under any reasonable interpretation Crandall can anticipate Claim 15.

Thus, Applicant submits that the presently claimed invention of Claims 15, 37, 47, 50 and 64, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, is not anticipated by Crandall. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Applicant respectfully requests that, should the Examiner find the foregoing arguments unpersuasive, that she contact Applicant's undersigned representative to discuss any proposed action which would render the application allowable. It is noted that prior to filing this Amendment, Applicant's representative contacted the Examiner in an attempt to schedule an interview, but no agreeable timeframe to conduct the interview before the second extended due date was reached.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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